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USSR: DEFEAT OF REBELS IN KHOWST OPERATION DESCRIBED

PM081432

<> MOSCOW <><>KRASNAYA ZVEZDA<><> IN RUSSIAN 7 OCT 85 SECOND EDITION P 3

((CORRESPONDENT LIEUTENANT COLONEL V. SKRIZHALIN "DISPATCH
FROM AFGHANISTAN": "KHOWST OPERATION"))((TEXT)) THE KHOWST DISTRICT EVIDENTLY OWES ITS EMERGENCE
AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NOT SO MUCH TO HISTORY AS TO
GEOGRAPHY. FERTILE AND WITH A HUMID SUBTROPICAL CLIMATE, THE
KHOWST VALLEY IS SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE TERRITORY
OF PAKTIA PROVINCE AND THE WHOLE OF AFGHANISTAN BY THE ALMOST
INACCESSIBLE (DZHADRAN) MOUNTAIN RANGE AND THE SOUTHWEST SPURS
OF THE SPIN GHAR.IT WAS EVIDENTLY THIS ISOLATED POSITION THAT MADE KHOWST, AS
WELL AS ORGUN, ITS TWIN ABUTTING UPON IT FROM THE SOUTH, THE
OBJECT OF THE COUNTERREVOLUTION'S SPECIAL ATTENTION. NOT WITHOUT
THE PARTICIPATION OF WESTERN "SPECIALISTS ON AFGHANISTAN" ITS
LEADERS DREW UP A PLAN FOR THE ARMED CAPTURE OF KHOWST AND ORGUN
AND THE PROCLAMATION OF AN "AUTONOMOUS AFGHAN STATE"
ON THEIR TERRITORY WITH ITS SUBSEQUENT RECOGNITION BY THE
WEST.THUS, THE CITY OF KHOWST FOUND ITSELF INSIDE A
COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CIRCLE. TO BREAK IT AND CLEAR THE
CITY'S ENVIRONS OF DUSHMAN GANGS -- THIS WAS THE ESSENCE OF THE
KHOWST OPERATION DRAWN UP BY THE DRA ARMED FORCES GENERAL
STAFF. LEADERSHIP OF IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL
(SHAKH NAVAZ TANAP), CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.PROBABLY THE BIGGEST "SURPRISE" THAT AFGHAN ARMY UNITS AND
SUBUNITS GAVE THE DUSHMANS WAS THEIR ADVANCE FROM GARDEYZ TO
KHOWST AT THE JUNCTION OF THE (DZHADRAN) AND SPIN GHAR RANGES BY

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WAY OF NARAY AND CHAMKANI. THIS MANEUVER MADE IT POSSIBLE TO DEAL THE BANDITS A CRUSHING BLOW. THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF COMBAT OPERATIONS CONFIRMED THAT THE DUSHMANS HAD BEEN RECKONING ON GETTING FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN KHOWST. THE ADVANCING ARMY SUBUNITS KEPT ON COMING UP AGAINST HEAVILY FORTIFIED STRONG POINTS. THE MOST STUBBORN FIGHTING DEVELOPED DURING THE CAPTURE OF THE DUSHMANS' BASE REGION. THEY PUT UP DESPERATE RESISTANCE. HOWEVER, THEIR DAYS WERE NUMBRED. THE CIRCLE WHICH HAD SURROUNDED KHOWST WAS BROKEN. WESTERN RADIO STATIONS COMMENTED ON THE KHOWST OPERATION. THEY TRIED TO JUSTIFY THE DUSHMANS' DEFEAT WITH REFERENCE TO THE "PARTICIPATION" OF SOVIET TROOPS IN COMBAT OPERATIONS. COMMENTING ON SUCH STATEMENTS, LT GEN (SHAKH NAVAZ TANAP) SAID:

"THIS IS THE USUAL WESTERN PROPAGANDA PLOY. NOT ONE SOVIET SERVICEMAN PARTICIPATED IN THE KHOWST OPERATION." INDEED, IN THIS OPERATION THE AFGHAN TROOPS EVEN MANAGED WITHOUT OUR SAPPERS, WHO PRIOR TO THIS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HEAVY MINING OF REGIONS OF COMBAT OPERATIONS, HAD FREQUENTLY BEEN DETAILED TO HELP THE AFGHANS IN MINE CLEARING. ...I FLEW OUT OF KHOWST ONE SUNNY DAY. THE INHABITANTS WERE IN FESTIVE MOOD. SOLDIERS -- DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRATIC AFGHANISTAN, WHICH IS MARCHING TO A BRIGHT TOMORROW -- HAD BROUGHT PEACE TO KHOWST.

(ENDALL) 7 OCT DP/BENNETT/DR 10/0751Z OCT

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